

Re:(and another note, please) Aquifer Exemptions Process

George Robin

to:

Salera, Jerry@DOC

11/28/2012 07:49 AM

Cc:

Michele Dermer, David Albright, R9-Deep

Hide Details

From: George Robin/R9/USEPA/US

To: "Salera, Jerry@DOC" <Jerry.Salera@conservation.ca.gov>,

Cc: Michele Dermer/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, David Albright/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, R9-Deep

Hi Jerry,

You are technically correct as this looks like my memory of the UIC regulations. However this is not reflective of the process itself.

You want to post on your website and that is a good idea, so we need to work together for language that is correctly descriptive of the process - for minor exemptions - and then for major exemptions we can work to add this later, because there are cases of which I have been made aware, or there are going to be some cases with oil resources and perhaps other. Language for "process" should not take us very long, on perhaps any subject, but including this one.

I am on sick leave again today, but will call you for a quick chat which should set you up with us in drafting language and you can informally describe to the operator's satisfaction. I have informally done this before with others in the DOGGR districts, but only informally, because of course, the regulations do not adequately describe "process." Our process, you will find matches that of EPA Region 6 and their states, and probably other Regions as well, as it makes sense.

The key to the Aquifer Exemption process is that the state agency is seeking to modify the UIC Primacy Agreement.....

Another note, please: I sent an email requesting "passive" (for information purposes primarily, as well as any regulatory guidance when asked) involvement in the permitting process, specifically referring to the Occidental Petroleum's UIC Class II application for the Elk Hills field, which will use CO2 for EOR. When we talk today, can we discuss this request also? I am expected to provide updates & information to our EPA HQ, as I found out just recently, so that email I sent was logical for sure.

Thanks,

George

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-----"Salera, Jerry@DOC" <Jerry.Salera@conservation.ca.gov> wrote: -----

To: George Robin/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Michele Dermer/R9/USEPA/US@EPA

From: "Salera, Jerry@DOC" <Jerry.Salera@conservation.ca.gov>

Date: 11/27/2012 03:41PM

Subject: Aquifer Exemptions Process

Hi George,

I tried to call you but learned you're out today, so I've included Michele in this email.

Just a few quick question about the AE process. An operator wants to know this and I'd like to put something out in our website as well regarding timelines for AE applications approval/disapproval.

I've take the data below from the guidelines you have sent me earlier.

Please correct me if I'm mistaken below:

For Minor aquifer exemption – EPA region 9 has 45 days to approve or deny an AE application. The countdown for the 45 day deadline begins when the Regional Office receives the application from the State Program Director (DOGGR). If the EPA does not take action within the 45 day period, the exemption is deemed approved.

Question: Is EPA going to take care of the Public Notification process?

For major aquifer exemptions, can you please brief me on what the timelines are? I could not clearly get it from the guidelines.

Thanks very much.

Jerry